

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. H.R. 1627, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 104-170.

Statement on Signing the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996

August 3, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1627, the "Food Quality Protection Act of 1996," which brings much needed reform to laws governing pesticides and food safety.

Americans have every right to expect that the world's most bountiful food supply will also be the world's safest. Early in my Administration I set out to strengthen our pesticide and food safety laws. This Act achieves that goal with commonsense regulatory reform based on the best available science.

The Act will replace conflicting and outdated pesticide residue standards with a single, rigorous health-based standard for all food. All pesticides will be required to meet the new standard. Incentives are also provided for swift approval of safe, new pesticide alternatives for farmers.

Most importantly, H.R. 1627 contains special new provisions to protect America's infants and children from pesticide risks. These protections will guarantee that every family in America has the safest food possible on their dinner table.

This Act demonstrates how the Congress and the Administration can work together to help both farmers and consumers, and I am pleased to sign it into law.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 3, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 1627, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 104-170.

Statement on Signing the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act

August 3, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.R. 497, the "National Gambling Impact Study Com-

mission Act." This legislation will establish a Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the social and economic impacts of gambling in the United States.

The Commission will help draw attention to the growth of the gambling industry and its consequences. Too often, public officials view gambling as a quick and easy way to raise revenues, without focusing on gambling's hidden social, economic, and political costs. The Commission will report on all of the effects of gambling to the President and the Congress.

The Commission's study will address various types of betting, whether conducted in a casino, on a riverboat, on the Internet, on an Indian reservation, or anywhere else in the United States. In addition, the study will address gambling sponsored by governmental, commercial, philanthropic, or charitable entities. Such a balanced study will be invaluable to public officials as they make policy decisions concerning this important issue.

The legislation grants the Commission limited subpoena authority to get the information it needs to carry out its purpose, while protecting the privacy of individuals and businesses. The bill also authorizes the Commission to request information from any Federal agency, which may use its discretion and judgment in withholding privileged and sensitive information.

My Administration supported the establishment of this Commission, and I am pleased to sign this bill into law.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 3, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 497, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 104-169.

Statement on Signing Legislation on Most-Favored-Nation Status for Romania

August 3, 1996

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 3161, authorizing the termination of the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Romania. Under the provisions of this bill,

the President may grant permanent most-favored-nation (MFN) status to Romania.

This is an important milestone in U.S.-Romanian relations. Romania now joins other emerging democracies in Central Europe from which the United States has fully removed trade restrictions that originated in concerns about emigration practices during the Cold War. My approval of this bill reflects the strong U.S. support for the citizens of Romania in their efforts to overcome the legacy of decades of communist repression and to establish a full democracy based on respect for human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, and free market economics.

This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support in the United States, and I note that the granting of permanent MFN has the support of many Romanian leaders across the political spectrum.

Romania's excellent record in respecting the right of free emigration, its considerable progress in establishing the fundamentals of a free market democracy and its strong cooperation with the United States helped facilitate passage of this bill. I am confident that Romania, as it proceeds toward integration with the Western democratic community, will continue its progress and intensify efforts to make democratic, free market reforms, develop good relations with its democratic neighbors and reach out to Romania's ethnic and religious minorities.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
August 3, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3161, approved August 3, was assigned Public Law No. 104-171.

Remarks on Signing the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 and an Exchange With Reporters

August 5, 1996

The President. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's good to be joined today by Senator D'Amato and Congressmen Cardin, Gejdenson, Gilman, King, and Matsui; family members of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103; and two brave Americans who suffered

the nightmare of being taken hostage in the Middle East.

We come together around the common commitment to strengthen our fight against terrorism. Terrorism has many faces, to be sure, but Iran and Libya are two of the most dangerous supporters of terrorism in the world. The Iran and Libya sanctions bill I sign today will help to deny those countries the money they need to finance international terrorism. It will limit the flow of resources necessary to obtain weapons of mass destruction. It will heighten pressure on Libya to extradite the suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

From the skies over Lockerbie to Khobar Towers, from the World Trade Center to Centennial Park, America has felt the pain of terrorism abroad and at home. From the Tokyo subway to the streets of Tel Aviv, we know that no nation is immune. We have not yet solved all these tragedies; we will not rest until we do so. But one thing is clear: To succeed in this battle we need to wage it together, as one America leading the community of civilized nations.

Our Nation is fighting terrorism on three fronts: first, abroad, through closer cooperation with our allies; second, at home, by giving our law enforcement officials the most powerful counterterrorism tools available; and, third, by improving security in our airports and on our airplanes. Last week in Paris, with America's leadership, the G-7 nations and Russia agreed on a sweeping set of measures to prevent terrorists from acting and to catch them when they do. We have seen that when we pool our strength we can obtain results. We will continue to press our allies to join with us in increasing the pressure on Iran and Libya to stop their support of terrorists. We already have acted ourselves, through our own sanctions, and with this legislation we are asking our allies to join with us more effectively.

With this legislation we strike hard where it counts, against those who target innocent lives and our very way of life. It shows we are fully prepared to act to restrict the funds to Iran and Libya that fuel terrorist attacks. America will not rest, and I resolve to hunt down, prosecute, and punish terrorists and to put pressure on states that support them.